

Message Text

SECRET

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DRAFTED BY: NEA:ALATHERTON, JR

APPROVED BY: THE SECRETARY

P-MR HABIB

S/S-O:DLMACK

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FM SECSTATE WASHDC

TO AMEMBASSY JIDDA IMMEDIATE

S E C R E T STATE 177860

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FOR AMBASSADOR FROM SECRETARY

E.O. 11652: XGDS-3

TAGS: PFOR, LE, US, JO, SA, SY

SUBJ: MESSAGE FROM ASAD VIA HUSSEIN ABOUT SOVIET
PRESSURES ON SYRIA

REF: AMMAN 3751

1. PLEASE INFORM KING KHALID AND PRINCE FAHD THAT WE UNDER-
STAND KING HUSSEIN HAS ASKED MINISTER OF COURT AMER
KHAMMASH TO BRIEF HIS MAJESTY, AS HE HAS US, ABOUT PRESIDENT
ASAD'S CONCERNS AT PRESSURES HE SAYS SOVIETS ARE PUTTING ON
SYRIA BECAUSE OF ITS POLICIES IN LEBANON. WE LEAVE IT TO
HUSSEIN'S EMISSARY, OF COURSE, TO CONVEY DETAILS OF ASAD'S
MESSAGE TO HIS MAJESTY. WE WANT OUR SAUDI FRIENDS TO KNOW,
HOWEVER, THAT IF IN THEIR JUDGMENT SOVIETS ARE IN FACT
EXERTING SUCH PRESSURE ON SYRIA, WE BELIEVE ANY SUPPORT
SAUDI ARABIA CAN PROVIDE ASAD WOULD BE MOST USEFUL. WE
WOULD WELCOME FURTHER EXCHANGE WITH THEM ON THIS SUBJECT
AFTER HIS TALKS WITH HUSSEIN.

2. YOU MAY WISH TO CONVEY FOREGOING THROUGH FONMIN PRINCE
SAUD, BUT WE LEAVE THIS TO YOUR DISCRETION. ROBINSON

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